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TALES FROM THE FRINGE

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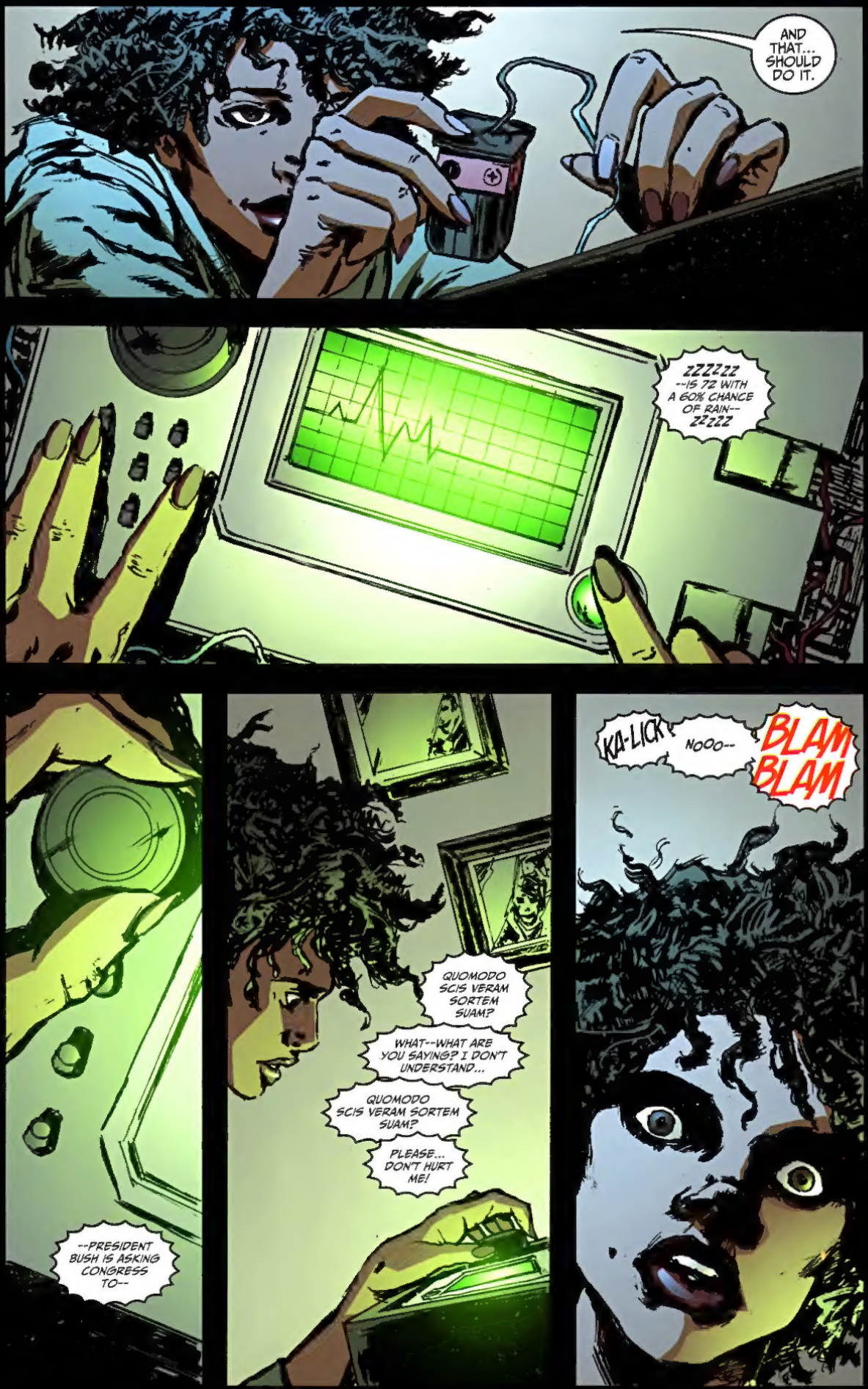
WILDSTORM

ASTRID FARNSWORTH:
THE CALLING
WRITERS:
DANIELLE DISPALTRO
& KRISTIN CANTRELL
ARTIST:
AARON MINIER
COLORIST:
RANDY MAYOR
LETTERER: WES ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR:
KRISTY QUINN
EDITOR: SCOTT PETERSON
COVER BY DIEGO LATORRE
SPECIAL THANKS
TO J.H. WYMAN
AND JEFF PINKNER
DAMN IT!
LINGUISTICS

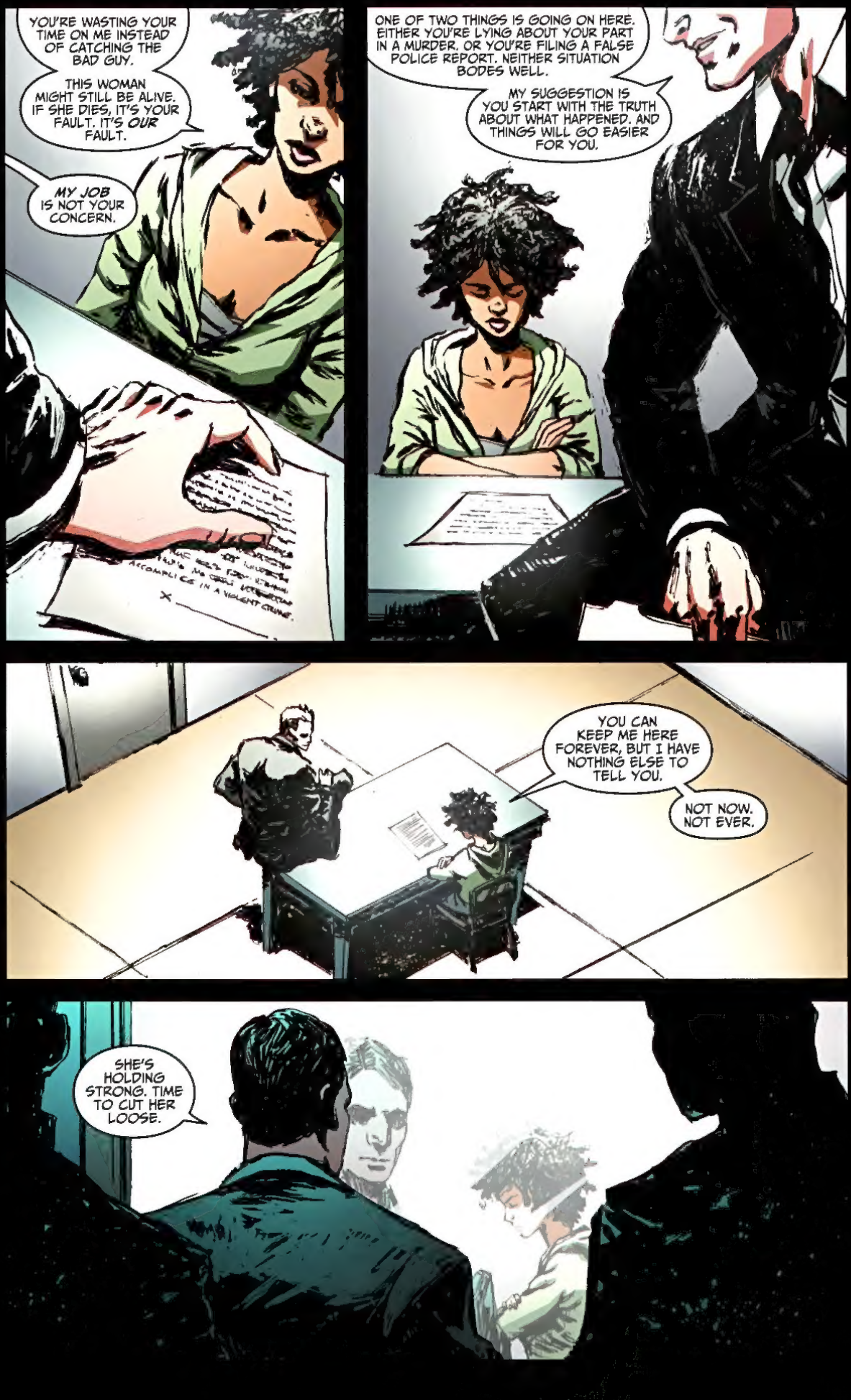
SO. WHAT CRAZY INVENTION ARE YOU WORKING ON NOW?
I'M BUILDING AN AUDIO TRANSMITTER FOR MY ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING CLASS.
SOUNDS WAY OVER MY HEAD.
THAT'LL BE $15.49, MS. FARNSWORTH.
HOW DID YOU KNOW MY LAST NAME?
I'VE SEEN THIS A LOT.
HAVE A GOOD DAY, MS. FARNSWORTH.
WE CARD
5 HOUR PUNCH
5-HOUR
CLOSE
PUSH
LOST CAT
MTA


AND THAT... SHOULD DO IT.
ZZZZZZ --IS 72 WITH A 60% CHANCE OF RAIN-- ZZZZZ
--PRESIDENT BUSH IS ASKING CONGRESS TO--
QUOMODO SCIS VERAM SORTEM SUAM?
WHAT--WHAT ARE YOU SAYING? I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
QUOMODO SCIS VERAM SORTEM SUAM?
PLEASE... DON'T HURT ME!
KA-LICK
NOOO--
BLAM BLAM

911. WHAT'S YOUR EMERGENCY?
I THINK A WOMAN'S BEEN SHOT!
WHAT'S THE ADDRESS?
I--I DON'T KNOW. I HEARD A WOMAN SCREAMING, A GUY WAS SPEAKING--IN LATIN--AND THEN THERE WERE GUNSHOTS--
MA'AM. I NEED YOU TO CALM DOWN. CAN YOU PLEASE BE MORE SPECIFIC?
NYPD
I'M BEING AS SPECIFIC AS I CAN.
MA'AM, I NEED TO ADVISE YOU, CALLING IN A FALSE REPORT IS A SERIOUS CRIME.
THIS ISN'T A FALSE REPORT! I KNOW WHAT I HEARD.
FINE. WE'LL SEND SOMEONE RIGHT OVER.
WAIT! THAT'S WASTING TIME. I THOUGHT--
CLICK
HELLO? HELLO?!

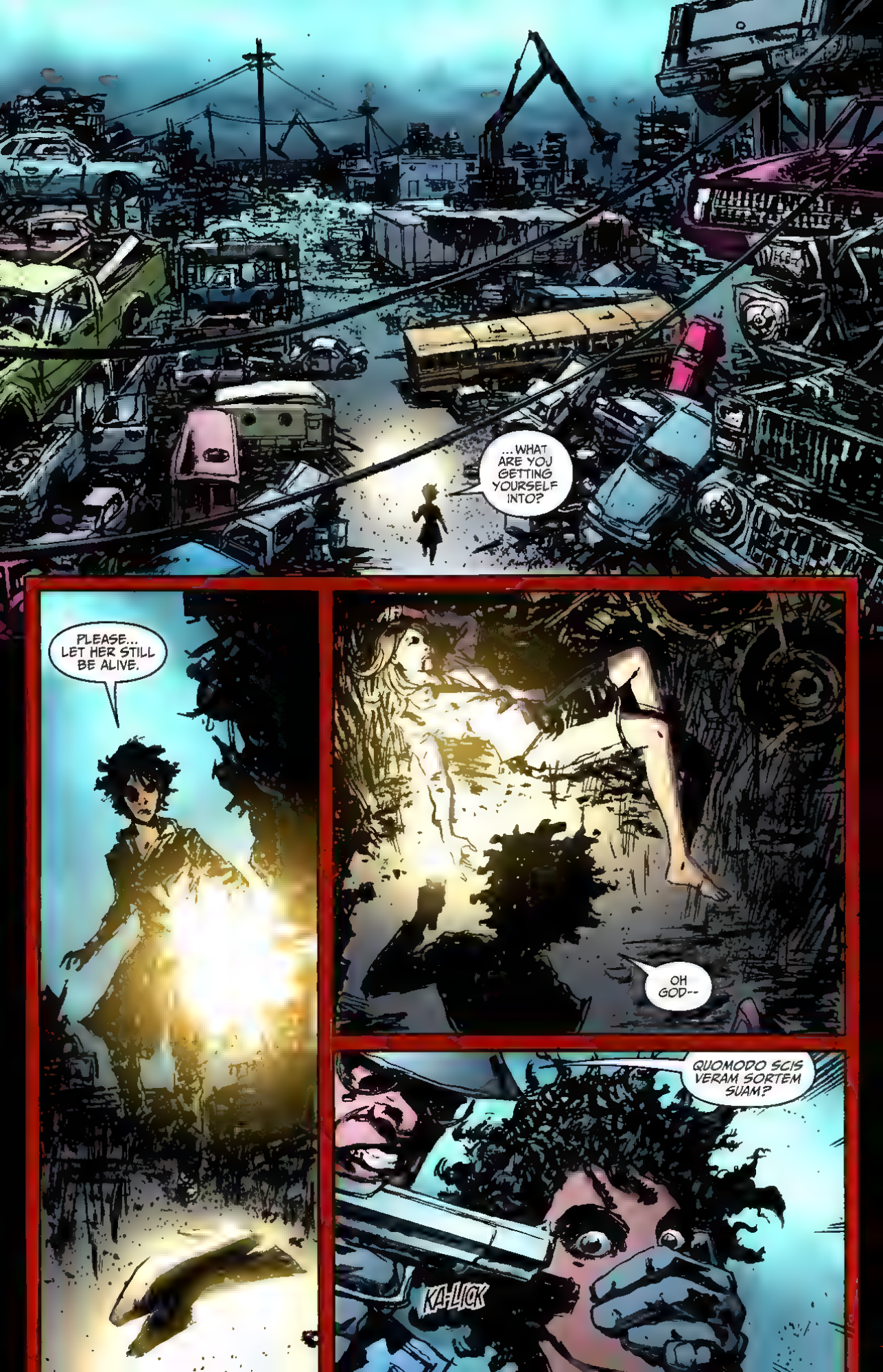
KNOCK KNOCK
WE'RE HERE ABOUT A 911 CALL.
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR OVER AN HOUR.
MISS, CAN YOU JUST TELL US WHAT HAPPENED?
I BUILT THIS DEVICE FOR CLASS. AND IT PICKED UP A SIGNAL OF A WOMAN SCREAMING FOR HELP AND THEN A GUN WENT OFF.
YOU HEARD ALL THAT THROUGH SOMETHING YOU BUILT?
YES, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHO IT WAS OR WHERE THEY ARE. THAT'S WHY I CALLED IT IN.
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS MIGHT HAVE OTHER TIPS OR... OR SOMETHING... AND YOU'D PIECE TOGETHER THE CLUES.
OH, REST ASSURED, MA'AM--WE'LL PUT OUR BEST MEN ON IT.
DO YOU HAVE A PERMIT FOR THIS MACHINE?
A PERMIT? IT'S A SCHOOL PROJECT. I DIDN'T THINK I NEEDED A PERMIT.
MM-HM. ARE THERE ANY ILLEGAL FIREARMS OR DRUGS ON THE PREMISES?
WHAT? NO! WHY ARE YOU ASKING ME ALL THESE IRRELEVANT QUESTIONS? A WOMAN'S LIFE MIGHT BE IN DANGER!
RIGHT.
MISS, WE'D LIKE TO TAKE YOU DOWNTOWN TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS.

KNOW WHAT I THINK?
I THINK YOU HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
LOOK, I KNOW IT SOUNDS CRAZY. I BUILT A TRANSMITTER. MAYBE THE FREQUENCY BOUNCED OFF A TOWER OR SOMETHING. BUT IT PICKED UP WHAT SOUNDS LIKE A MURDER.
WHY WOULD I CALL IT IN IF I WERE INVOLVED? I'M JUST TRYING TO HELP YOU FIND THEM.
I DON'T KNOW, MS. FARNSWORTH. I DON'T KNOW WHY.
BUT THE THING IS, YOUR STORY? I JUST DON'T BELIEVE IT.


YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME ON ME INSTEAD OF CATCHING THE BAD GUY.
THIS WOMAN MIGHT STILL BE ALIVE. IF SHE DIES, IT'S YOUR FAULT. IT'S *OUR* FAULT.
MY JOB IS NOT YOUR CONCERN.
ONE OF TWO THINGS IS GOING ON HERE. EITHER YOU'RE LYING ABOUT YOUR PART IN A MURDER. OR YOU'RE FILING A FALSE POLICE REPORT. NEITHER SITUATION BODES WELL.
MY SUGGESTION IS YOU START WITH THE TRUTH ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED. AND THINGS WILL GO EASIER FOR YOU.
YOU CAN KEEP ME HERE FOREVER, BUT I HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO TELL YOU.
NOT NOW. NOT EVER.
SHE'S HOLDING STRONG. TIME TO CUT HER LOOSE.

ONE HOUR LATER...
OKAY. IF I CAN ISOLATE THE NOISES IN THE BACKGROUND, MAYBE I CAN FIND A CLUE.
IT'S SOME TYPE OF HORN... A BOAT...
...A TUG BOAT!
BAAAAOOOGAAAAAA!
WHERE ARE YOU WHERE ARE YOU WHERE ARE YOU?
8:17 A.M.
JUMBO JET - HORN
TRAIN, BEEPING TRUCK
LONG ISLAND SOUND IS TOO FAR OUT OF RANGE...
IT'S GOT TO BE NEAR THE EAST RIVER OR THE HUDSON.
MAYBE IT WASN'T A TUG BOAT AT ALL... MAYBE...
...IT WAS THE STATEN ISLAND FERRY.
NEW YORK
MUST BE CLOSE TO THE PORT.
IF THE BEEPING NOISE WAS A TOW TRUCK... AND THE GULLS WERE EATING TRASH...
JOE'S AUTO WRECKING!

TAXI!
STATEN ISLAND FERRY, PLEASE.
I HAVE VISUAL ON THE GIRL. SHE'S ON THE MOVE.
TELL ME WHEN YOU WANT ME TO PULL THE TRIGGER.
JOE'S AUTO WRECKING
NO
OH, ASTRID...

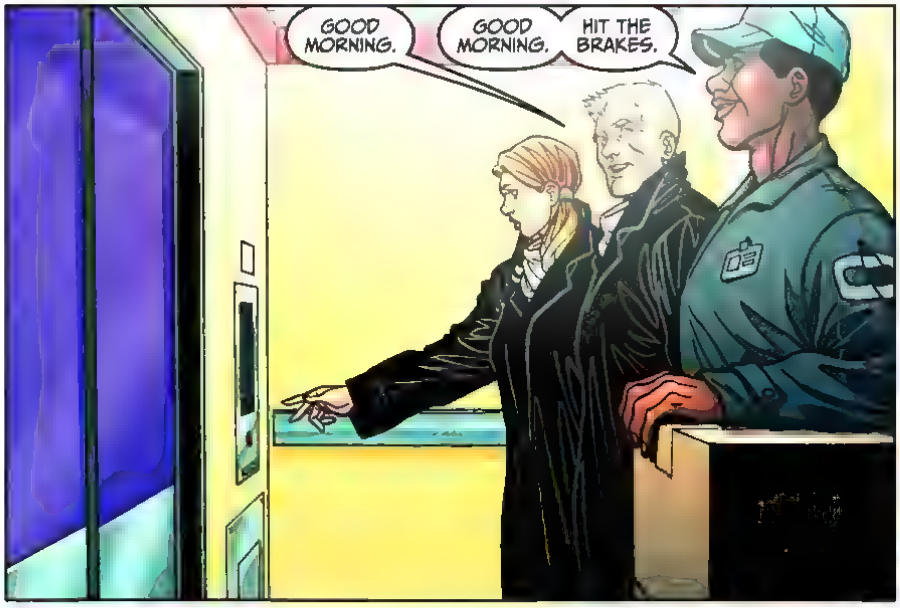

...WHAT ARE YOU GETTING YOURSELF INTO?
PLEASE... LET HER STILL BE ALIVE.
OH GOD--
QUOMODO SCIS VERAM SORTEM SUAM?
KA-LICK

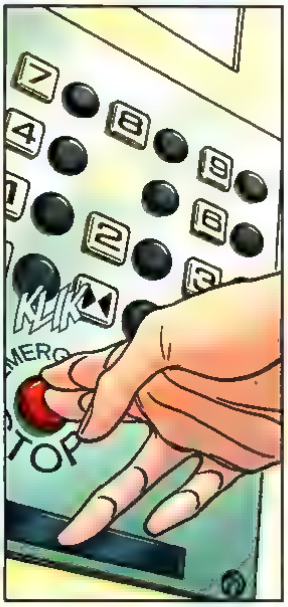
QUOMODO?
HOW DO YOU KNOW YOUR TRUE DESTINY?
PRAE TE SESE OSTENDIT... IT REVEALS ITSELF BEFORE YOU.
WELL DONE, MS. FARNSWORTH. AND THEY SAY LATIN'S A DEAD LANGUAGE.
I--I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
FINALLY. GOD, MY BACK WAS STARTING TO CRAMP UP DOWN THERE.
YOU'RE... YOU'RE ALIVE?!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WE'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU FOR A YEAR.
WE KNEW ABOUT YOUR TRANSMITTER.
THIS WAS A RECRUITMENT TEST. FOR THE FBI.
WE'VE BEEN TESTING YOUR INVESTIGATIVE SKILLS--YOUR INSTINCTS. WE NEEDED TO BE SURE.
I DON'T GET IT. WHY ME? WHY THIS ELABORATE SCHEME?
BECAUSE EVERYTHING ELSE WE CAN TEACH. BUT NOT BEING AN AGENT--THAT'S WHO YOU ARE, ASTRID FARNSWORTH.
SO I PASSED?
YEAH. YOU PASSED.
THE END

I'M SORRY, BUT NEITHER OF YOU ARE ON THE VISITOR'S LIST...
TOYS & TRINKETS
...AND I CAN'T LET YOU UP WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT.
I KNOW WE'RE IN THE BOOK.
COULD YOU CHECK ONCE MORE?
THE WEAPON
WRITER: JUSTIN DOBLE
ARTIST: TIM LEVINS
COLORIST: BARRIE STRACHAN
LETTERER: WES ABBOTT
ASSISTANT EDITOR: KRISTY QUINN
EDITOR: SCOTT PETERSON
SPECIAL THANKS TO J.H. WYMAN AND JEFF PINKNER
JUST A MOMENT...
KLK
...OH. THERE YOU ARE--BRYANT, RANDY AND TERRY.
KNOW WHERE YOU'RE GOING?
ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP.
HEY, I DON'T RECOGNIZE YOU...

...WHERE'S REGGIE?
DOWN ON THE COAST-- FISHING WITH HIS SON, YOU'RE VERNON, RIGHT? HE SENDS HIS REGARDS.
HEY, GOOD FOR HIM. GO ON UP.

HOLD THE ELEVATOR, PLEASE!


GOOD MORNING.
GOOD MORNING.
HIT THE BRAKES.


7
8
9
4
2
6
3

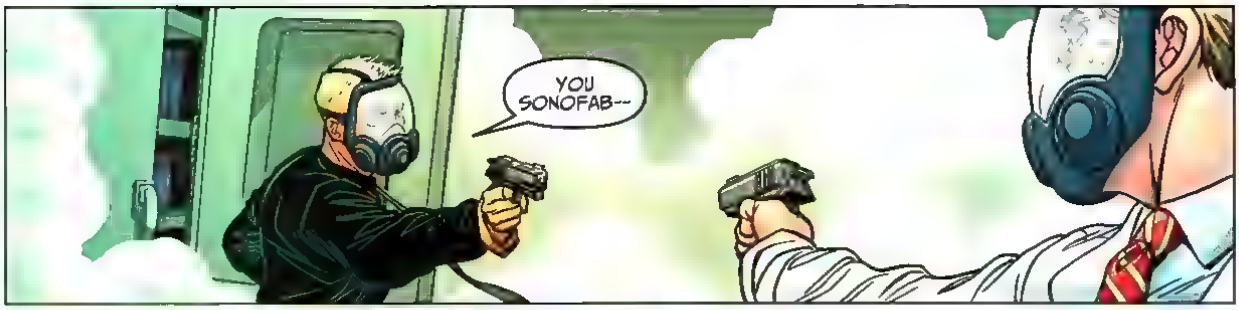
DING

WHOA!
CODE BLU--
BLAMM
BLAMM
ARRRGGGG!
THE DOOR USES ELLIPTIC CURVE FACTORIZATION TO CHANGE THE COMBINATION EVERY TEN SECONDS.
I NEED TO CONFUSE THE ALGORITHM--

--AND WITH *THIS* IT SHOULDN'T TAKE MORE THAN A COUPLE OF MINUTES.
BOYS...
...TODAY'S OUR LUCKY DAY.
MEET CHRISTOPHER JAMES...
HUH?
...V.P. OF RESEARCH.
HE HAS LEVEL FIVE ACCESS.
JUST TO BE CLEAR--
--WE GET IN AND GET OUT.
NO FUSSIN' AROUND.
GOT IT.
LET'S DO IT.
BEEEP

WHAT... WHAT IS THIS? WHAT DO YOU WANT?
EVERYONE...
...PLAY DEAD.
HISSSS
SSSSS
PUT THIS ON...
...NOW!
OHMIGOD OHMIGOD!
YOU'RE GONNA BE FINE... IF YOU DO AS WE SAY.
OPEN THE VAULT.
I CAN'T... DO THAT.
YOU'RE GERALD LEIGHTON...

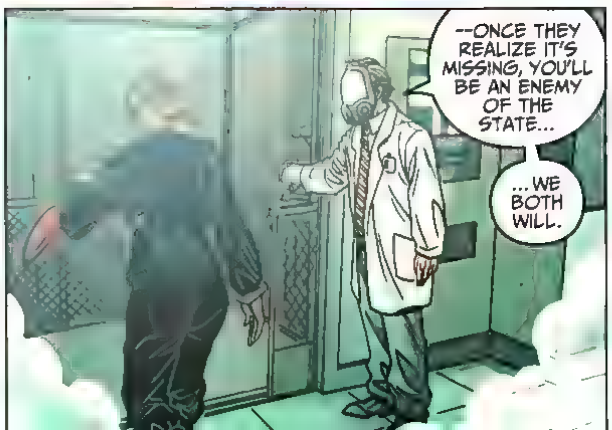
...YOUR WIFE IS HOPE...YOU HAVE TWO BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN...LUCAS AND ABIGAIL...YOU LIVE AT 287 MUDGETT ROAD...
HOW DID YOU--?
...AND IF YOU DON'T OPEN THE VAULT, THEY'LL ALL BE DEAD IN FIFTEEN SECONDS.
BUT...YOU DON'T...
1...2...3...
OKAY--I'LL OPEN IT.
NO...
...IT'S TOO...DANGEROUS...THE WEAPON...INSIDE...
...YOU MUSTN'T LET IT OUT...
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST GONE TO SLEEP.
KLIK
HEY!
BANGG
ARGGGHH!


YOU SONOFAB--

BLAMM
BLAMM

YOU WERE VERY CONVINCING--YOU ALMOST HAD ME FOOLED.

THANK YOU.
I SHOULD WARN YOU--

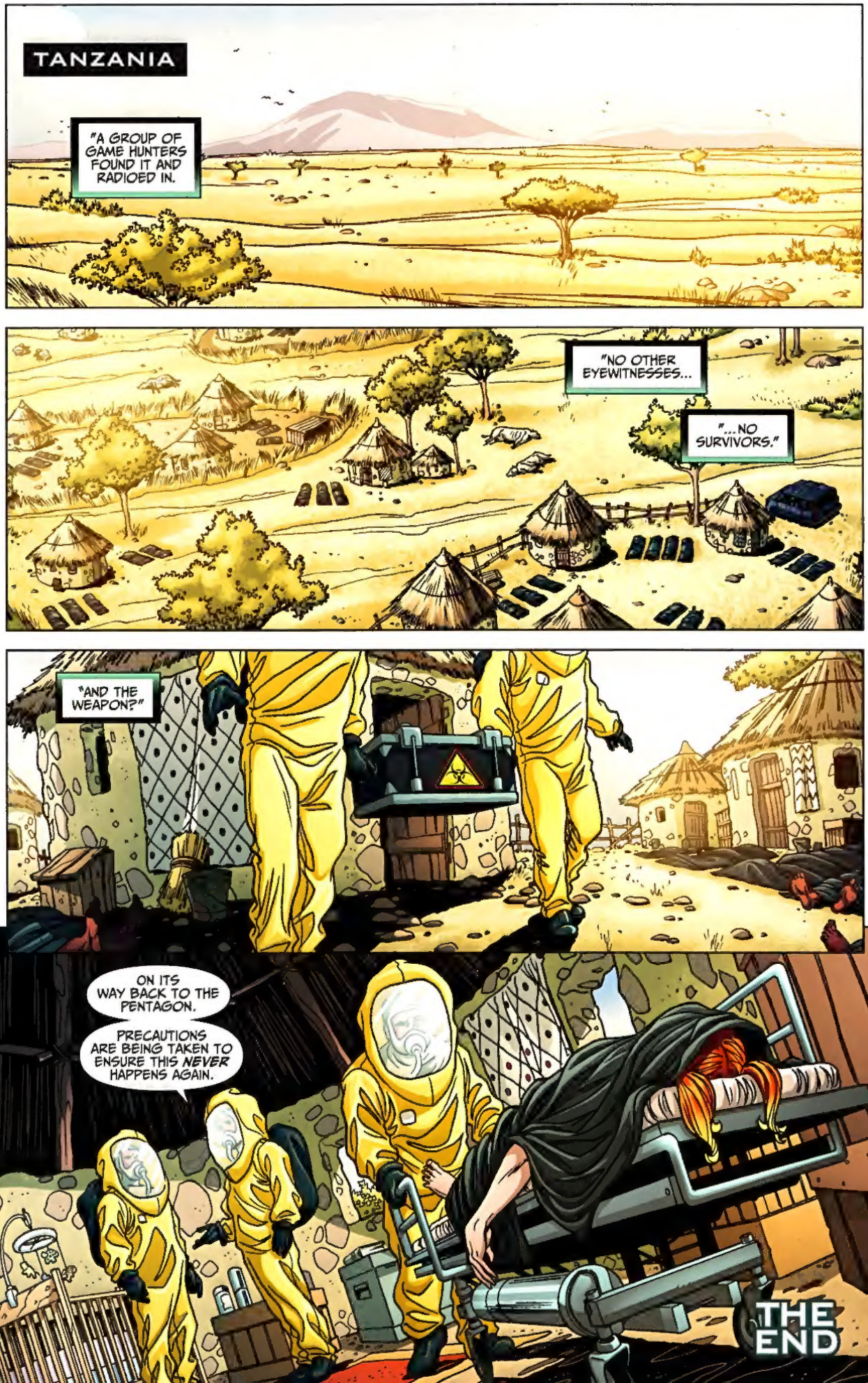

--ONCE THEY REALIZE IT'S MISSING, YOU'LL BE AN ENEMY OF THE STATE...
...WE BOTH WILL.

AND IF YOU DON'T TAKE THE NECESSARY PRECAUTIONS...
...YOU MAY JUST BE ANOTHER CASUALTY.
I'M AWARE OF THE CONSEQUENCES.

REGARDLESS, I UNDERSTAND WHY THIS MUST BE DONE.
NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE WITHOUT YOU.
ON THREE.
ONE .. TWO ..
KLIK
KLIK
FORGIVE ME...
BLAMM

MY SWEET LITTLE GIRL.

THEY CAN TRY ALL THEY WANT...
...TO KEEP US APART.
BUT I PROMISE...
...WE'RE GOING SOMEWHERE THEY'LL NEVER FIND US.


TANZANIA
"A GROUP OF GAME HUNTERS FOUND IT AND RADIOED IN.
"NO OTHER EYEWITNESSES...
"...NO SURVIVORS."
"AND THE WEAPON?"
ON ITS WAY BACK TO THE PENTAGON.
PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN TO ENSURE THIS *NEVER* HAPPENS AGAIN.
THE END

THE STORM FRONT

This September, two new videogames join the WildStorm arcade of comics!

First up is the epic six-issue RATCHET AND CLANK mini-series, which forces a Lombax mechanic and his small robot sidekick into a galaxy-spanning adventure. This all-new story comes packed with old flames and new friends…plus every memorable game character that we could squeeze in—like newly appointed Galactic President Qwark. Of course, with friends like these, they'll need their huge arsenal of unusual and unique weaponry to keep them company too.

T.J. Fixman's responsible for all of the *Ratchet and Clank* videogames, so who better to add his casual sense of humor and wisecracks to their continuing adventures in the world of comics? Adam (HEROES) Archer's playfully inspired work perfectly captures the game visuals—inventive gadgets, cinematic storytelling, hilarious characters and all. Rounding out the team are Creaturebox on covers. They're big comics fans themselves, and no strangers to the *Ratchet and Clank* universe, so get your omniwrench and some bolts ready this September.

TELARA CHRONICLES is a new four-issue mini-series based on the highly anticipated massively multiplayer online role-playing game *Rift* (MMORPG for those already glued to their computer screens). The mini-series follows Asha as she fights for her ever-changing world and against the inter-dimensional rifts plaguing them. Powerful magics have been used to study these rift anomalies, but still, without warning, a tear in the fabric of reality could open up in front of you and drastically change the environment and situation around you.

The big features of this MMORPG are its rich mythology and high-definition dynamic surroundings. Fortunately, we knew just the creators to pull it off in comics. Rick Sanchez is a rising star at WildStorm with his work on RESIDENT EVIL and Pop Mhan should already be familiar to WS fans, so you know they're up to the challenge.

Next month, come back for a trip to the movies with WILDSTORM!

JIM LEE

OUT THIS MONTH!

COLLECTED EDITIONS:
KILLAPALOOZA TPB

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ASTRO CITY: SILVER AGENT #2
THE AUTHORITY #25
THE AUTHORITY: THE LOST YEAR #12
DV8: GODS & MONSTERS #5
FREE REALMS #12
FRINGE: TALES FROM THE FRINGE #3
GARRISON #5
GEARS OF WAR #13
GEN13 #37
IDES OF BLOOD #1
KANE & LYNCH #1
SPARTA: USA #6
TOM STRONG AND THE ROBOTS OF DOOM #3
WELCOME TO TRANQUILITY: ONE FOOT IN THE GRAVE #2
WILDCATS #26
THE X-FILES/30 DAYS OF NIGHT #2

For a complete list of this week's titles, sneak peeks, breaking news and more, visit us at wildstorm.com

NEXT ISSUE:
FRINGE:
TALES FROM
THE FRINGE #4

WILDSTORM